

ELECTION

Claims 1-55 were previously pending in this application. The Examiner issued a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 requiring the Applicant to elect a single, disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Applicant respectfully traverses this election requirement as improper, but provisionally elects Claims 1-16 in order to advance the prosecution of this case, despite the fact that Applicant consider claims 17-55 as not being patentably distinct and should be examined together with claims 1-16. Applicant asserts that these claim sets are not "independent and distinct" as required for an election to be required.

In sum, Applicant provisionally elect to proceed with examination of claims 1-16, and withdraw claims 17-55 without prejudice, and reserve the right to re-file these claims as part of a divisional application.

REMARKS

A first Office Action on the merits is now respectfully awaited. If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact David W. Carstens at 972.367.2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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